

Sundry Conference Notes

First of all read what Brother Yoder says in his items on page 14. You need have no fear so far as accommodations are concerned. There will be ample room for all. Do not stay at home on that account. "Still there is room."

The Conference begins on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. You should be there at the opening session, and regularly thereafter during all the sessions of the Conference.

The secretaries and treasurers of the several Boards should be careful to bring with them such records as may be needed for reference.

Members of the Mission and Publication Boards will please remember the dates of the meetings announced for them. The Mission Board meets at 10 A. M. Tuesday, August 29, which means in the forenoon of the day the Conference opens. The Publication Board will meet at 6 o'clock in evening of the same day, Tuesday, August 29. There should be a full attendance at each of these meetings.

The Conference continues over Sabbath. While there will be no business sessions on Sunday, there will be Sabbath-school, preaching services, in the morning; young people's and junior rallies in the afternoon, and preaching services in the evening. Remain for all these services. When you leave home tell your people you are not coming back until Monday or Tuesday. Pastors should announce to their people on Sabbath that they must not be expected to be home the following Sabbath. It would be a great pity to spend your time and money for the Conference, then go home and miss the inspiration that comes from the Sabbath services.

There is one thing of which each one attending the Conference should have a large share as it is free to all for the asking,—the Spirit of God. It can be had on the grounds or anywhere at all, in such portions as you may desire it. The blessed Lord is ready and willing to enter your heart and life and control it to the full extent of your readiness and willingness to allow him.

Remember that the Publication Board will have on sale a selection of excellent books, tracts, pamphlets, etc. If you are in need of anything in our line hold your order, and we can supply you. Also remember that the EVANGELIST subscription list will be on our table, and subscriptions taken.

Remedy for Doubt

An exchange remarks: "It is the systems of theology that cause doubt, the sedentary magi who write 'bodies' of divinity crammed with the sawdust of nonsense." We do not

believe that this is the sole, or even the most prolific source of doubt, tho it is certainly true that creeds and systems of theology perform to a certain extent this baneful office. Outsiders, mistaking these creeds for the Gospel, immediately find their vulnerable points irreconcilable with reason, law and common sense, and they conclude erroneously that there has been no divine revelation to men. Finite men, incapable by the natural limitations of the mind, seeing only that section of revealed truth which is visible from their point of view, yet ignorantly mistaking that fraction for the whole, have written out their summary for the confusion of succeeding generations. Thus it happens that millions of church people are looking at the truth thru dead eyes. Ultra conservatism forbids independent thought and free investigation and so the creed blankets cover their little squads here and there, while the great world outside gropes in the darkness like a blind giant trying to find his way. You would hardly be able to persuade an enlightened man nowadays, one who had escaped the slavery of ecclesiastical environment, that the doctrinal hut erected by some mediaeval hermit was better than the magnificent palace of God's world wide truth. He will not accept your theory of inspired barbarians. Oh how much the church needs to dig beneath the rubbish of preconception and find the truth as it is in Jesus. It is the real Christ that must win the world, not the burlesque, distorted Christ of the creeds and systems of divinity. Many there are who without the help of the churches are seeking to find and to know this Christ of God's love. Will he not be found of them? What must He think of the creed fences and theology fogs which keep men from coming to him? Let us learn more and more of Christ, and when his spirit is in the utterance of our lips and his love in our lives, there will no longer be any doubters on our account, or any remains of unbelief in our own hearts.

World's Missionary Conference of 1900

On April 21, 1900 there is announced to convene in the metropolis of the Western world a Ecumenical Council on foreign missions in which all denominations and missionary societies are to be represented. This conference of Christian workers from all parts of the earth, says Arthur T. Pierson, will be one of the grandest gatherings of the ages, and will, in many respects, have had no rival in all church councils. Not only are there to be representatives from all denominations and societies of missions, but representatives "from every nation under heaven," will be present, and "its constituency will, therefore, span the oceans and link the continents." "Protestant missions from sunrise to sunset, and from equator to poles, will send delegates."

Doctor Pierson devotes several editorial pages to this Council in the August number of the Missionary Review of the World, and offers some very practical suggestions and excellent advice to those who are to compose that august body. We quote a single paragraph as applicable to our Conference no less than to the Convention for which it was written. It is as follows:

If a word might be added, addressed especially to *speakers*, we would emphasize certain mistakes as always to be avoided. For instance the mistake of *apology*. In the majority of cases apologies are out of place. Time is worth too much to be spent in vain explanations and false humility. Self depreciation is often both inappropriate and insincere. Moreover, if the apology be true the speaker should not be making the speech, and, if untrue, he should not be making the apology. We have heard a man face a grand audience, when every moment is golden, and coolly state that he has had no time to prepare or is unfit to treat the subject—both of which statements became speedily but too obvious—when, if what he says he means, by all the laws of good sense and good manners, he should sit down and give place to some one who *is* competent and *has* prepared himself. We heard a man of some distinction, appointed to his duty months beforehand, insult his hearers by informing them that he had made no preparation until on his way hurrying to the meeting, and we all thought so before he concluded. Let speakers give their hearers what has cost thinking and is worth thought, and then, without needless delay, plunge at once *in medias res*.

A Short Creed

A man of the world will sometimes, or often, insist when asked about the affairs of his soul that if he is honest he will be saved. "I pay all my debts," you will hear him say, as if this fact gave him a title to eternal life. Debt paying is meritorious, to be sure, but hardly justifies this very high estimate. The man who depends upon it for the salvation of his soul evidently thinks that it entitles him to a great deal of consideration. But after all the man who thinks that honesty will save him is not very far wrong. The trouble lies in his conception of honesty. That very fellow who punctually and punctiliously pays his debts is at that very moment and every moment robbing God. He doesn't steal from his fellowmen, to be sure, but he steals from God. Maybe he thinks that is a small matter. Let us see; he steals all his time from God, six days every week, and often a day on Sunday. God has entrusted to him time, life, opportunities, talents, property, but all these things he has appropriated to his own use. It was intended by the divine doner that he should use them for the good of others, but he selfishly uses them for himself alone. Is he honest?